



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-L

1 Jun 92

WHITE LETTER NO. 8-92

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: All General Officers  
All Commanding Officers  
All Officers in Charge

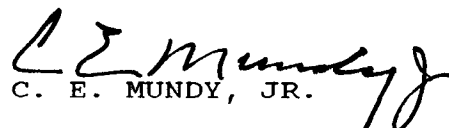
Subj: ELIMINATING GOLD-PLATING AND ENSURING REASONABLENESS OF  
PRICES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

1. The Marine Corps continues to be a full participant in the Department of Defense attack on excessive specifications (gold-plating) and payment of unreasonable prices. What we have been doing must be working--the Marine Corps has never appeared in the newspapers as a buyer of overpriced hardware or services. We are perceived as truly managing our portion of the defense budget.

2. Vigilance is the key. With recent budget cuts and resulting hard choices on what we buy, we must guard against any perception of fraud, waste, and abuse. We continue to encourage Marines and civilian employees throughout the Corps to be price and value conscious. Hotlines are now well established, and there are other avenues to report abuses. This is not just the job of the engineers and contracting personnel; every Marine and Marine Corps civilian employee must be aware of a responsibility for price, quality, and value received. My message is this: Buy only what we need and ensure that the price we pay is fair and reasonable.

3. For those personnel directly involved in acquisition and contracting, I task you to continue to challenge requirements if they appear out of line or overstated. Contracting officers and purchasing agents have the authority and the responsibility to refuse to make a buy if the requirement is questionable. I expect each of you to institute or reinforce procedures whereby the contracting officer will have direct access to you.

4. We must know what we need, use the supply system whenever possible, challenge suspected irregularities, apply sound judgment and common sense, and use the chain of command to resolve issues. Further, we must hold all personnel accountable for following correct procedures and for using good judgment and common sense. You and every member of your organization must understand the importance I place on this matter.

  
C. E. MUNDY, JR.